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Minutes

Faculty Senate

9-1-2015

September 1, 2015

Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "September 1, 2015" (2015). *Minutes*. 1087.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/facsen_mins/1087

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

01 September 2015 meeting

(The 2015-2016 Faculty Senate agendas, minutes, and other information are available on the Web at: <http://castle.eiu.edu/facsen/>)

* Note: These minutes are not a complete verbatim transcript of the Senate meeting. (J. Oliver)

I. Call to Order by Chair Sterling at 2:00pm (Booth Library, Room 4440)

Present: S. Eckert, N. Hugo, J. Oliver, J. Robertson, G. Sterling, S. Stowell, S. Simpson (Student VP), J. Waller, C. Wharram, B. Young – 9/15 senators – no quorum met. Sterling provides clarification on what constitutes a quorum.

Guests: J. Allison, G. Aylesworth, J. Blitz, C. Bushman, R. King, B. Lord (AA), B. Lawrence, H. Ornes, D. Smith

II. Approval of Minutes of 25 August 2015

Minutes from 25 August 2015 Senate meeting were approved. Motion made by Senator Stowell and seconded by Senator Oliver. All in favor? - Unanimous

III. Communications

a. Letter from UPC, Re: Dean Ornes' request for non-DAC evaluation materials

- Sterling suggests that each department's DAC should be dictating the requirements for faculty evaluations, not the Dean. If the DAC requires reflective narratives, then they should be included, but not included because they are requested by a Dean.
- Robertson – suggests that EIU has fair procedures in place for faculty to be evaluated. One item troubled me – “Future Personnel Actions” – each DAC provides the guidelines – extra unrequired steps not outlined on a department's DAC could cause unnecessary anxiety/conflict
- Waller – the departments should decide what is included
- Smith – the letter from UPC stands as our (UPC's) statement today
- Waller – what would you like us to do?
- Smith – no clear answer - be aware of the situation – after significant discussion - we sent letter to Faculty Senate, UPI, all COS faculty – serious enough that light needs to be shined upon it
- Nichole – any other action taken besides the letter
- Smith – not as of yet
- Robertson – any grievance filed, correct?
- Smith – we have not asserted that harm has occurred, but we are concerned about the precedence
- Waller – discussed with Dean?
- Smith – letter sent to the Dean. No response from the Dean.
- Wharram – reviews the collective bargaining agreement – discusses additional information about ‘added material’
- Smith – comments about ‘added material’ – ‘what’ and ‘when’? – Dean inviting the addition of reflective documents – Dean pressuring faculty to add additional docs
- Wharram – adds more comments about ‘reflection documents’
- Smith – we don't interpret ‘reflective documents’ as the option of ‘additional documentation’
- Waller – suggests to Smith that the Faculty Senate asks for response
- Stowell – was Provost's letter (response) made public?
- Smith – no, we did not think it would be appropriate to make it public
- Lord – in my opinion matters related to collective bargaining contract should not be discussion in Faculty Senate
- Robertson – referring to Faculty Senate Constitution - wording included in preamble and article 2
- Robertson – not against maintaining an open dialogue on this issue affecting EIU faculty in the Senate

b. E-mail from Senator Oliver, Re: student fee breakdown

- Email sent to Senators last Spring following the student fee issue on campus.
- Robertson reviews the current student fee breakdown
- Sterling – discusses the concern regarding lack of transparency regarding the ‘Grant-in-Aid’ fee on this campus – students do not know what it is and that a large portion of this fee goes to athletics
- Oliver – circulates a handout - this issue is a perfect example of why (unfortunately) we need a budget transparency committee. This past Spring the VP of Student Affairs presented the case that the EIU athletics fee needed to be increased because EIU was well behind other EIU institutions in terms of ‘athletic fee’ (\$8.64). I was initially ‘sold’ and became a ‘cheerleader’ for the proposal. However, what he conveniently did not include in his presentation to gain support for an increased athletic fee was the reality that a large portion of the GIA fee (\$11.95) already goes to athletics. This data was revealed after members of the budget transparency committee met with interim VP of Business Affairs Paul McCann. Adding the GIA portion for athletics to the explicit athletic fee equated to a larger overall athletic fee per credit hour to athletics than at many other Illinois universities. The Student Senate was unaware of this reality until it was brought to the attention of past Student VP Shirmeen Ahmad in a Faculty Senate meeting this past spring. Once the Student Senate found out, they voted against the fee. Greater transparency is needed on the EIU website regarding fees – specifically the accurate breakdown of the ‘Grant in Aid’ fee.
- Stowell – highlights the impact of the fee increase to a full-time student
- Oliver – students were caught off guard on this
- Robertson – reviews the events – students voted against fee increase
- Sterling – adds more historical context on the issue
- Eckert – add more comments on the situation
- Robertson – who should we ask to add greater clarity to the website?
- Lord – financial aid - tuition and fees is posted on EIU website. VP of Student Affairs controls what is posted.
- Oliver – to Robertson – the Faculty Senate should request that additional fee info be added to the EIU website – in particular the breakdown of “grant-in-aid” fee

c. 2014-15 Annual Report on Intercollegiate Athletics

- d. COIA Letter and Draft Resolution for H.R. 275 – presented by Robertson
 - Sterling supports the resolution.
 - Robertson suggests an 'Ad-Hoc committee on Athletics' and proposes potential committee members
 - Oliver – we already have an IAB in place on campus
 - Robertson – maybe the committee could act as a liaison between IAB and the Fac Senate
 - Stowell – we hear from IAB once a year, maybe we should hear from them more often
 - Eckert – Jim Davis suggested that IAB does not receive much timely budget info from Athletics
 - Stowell – but are we beating a dead horse here? I think the IAB is in place to fill this role
 - Oliver – I think if the current FAR and IAB receive the necessary info to properly advise, they can better fulfill their duties
 - Eckert – add comments
 - Stowell – adds more comments
 - Wharram – offers comments
 - Robertson – offers more justification on proposing Ad-Hoc committee
 - Oliver – offers comments on Athletics – I believe in point 1 of H.R. 275 – that a properly conducted intercollegiate athletic program contributes to the beneficial development of student athletes and the vibrancy of campus life at EIU. Athletics and KSS have a mutually beneficial relationship. I don't want to have an adversarial relationship with Athletics. However, I think if the FAR and IAB are more engaged as an advisory body to Athletics, and holds Athletics accountable, and bring concerns to the Faculty Senate more frequently, that will help to resolve ongoing concerns that we may have.
- e. E-mail from Marita Gronnvoll concerning need for CAA replacement –contacted Larry White. Hopefully he will accept.
- f. E-mail from Andrew McNitt concerning Commitment to Excellence Scholarships – Bailey and Jon met with Andrew McNitt this week.
 - Robertson – may not be the best time to email colleagues and ask money for the fund
 - Bailey – invite Andrew McNitt back to the Senate to give an update.
- g. E-mail from Senator Quesada concerning remote service
 - Robertson provides comments on the situation. Concerns about regularly participation via Skype.
 - Eckert – no problem if Jeannie is willing to help with needed technology
 - Young – I think it's important to be together in the same room. That should be the standard.
 - It's an admirable professional conflict. Service in the Chicagoland area.
 - Stowell – I think you lose some interaction using online comm. Candidates know when they run for office of when the meetings are.
 - Oliver – I would Ruben to try to rearrange his community service. Campus needs you here.
 - Waller – I disagree. I have online meetings almost every day. It works.
 - Hugo – concern would be who would be in charge of the technology every meeting
 - Sterling – like today, the person who helped with Skype is not here, so now we don't have either senator present
 - Allison offers comments about the relationship of the Senate meetings and the Open Meetings Act.
 - King – suggests that the use of technology is viable as an option – in line with campus-wide technology initiatives
 - Robertson - offers additional comments
 - Oliver – asks question about the conflict? Two good causes at the same time?
 - Robertson provides background on Quesada's situation – will hopefully be able to resolve issue by next meeting.
- h. E-mail from Senator Young Re: concerns over reductions in technical support for D2L –
 - Robertson – CATS undergoing reorganization – J. Henderson invited to next meeting.
 - Oliver – is there a problem or are we predicting a problem?
 - Robertson – prediction
 - Eckert – a real problem – 2 colleges sharing 1 tech support professional
 - King – losing technology support professionals for D2L is a major problem. Only 2 staff remain for supporting faculty across campus. Faculty are expected to use course learning management system in classes. This will develop into a huge problem as we move forward.
 - Robertson – the CAH tech support staff that helped me develop a tech-heavy class has been dismissed. I am very concerned.
 - Stowell – have the tech duties been distributed to other people? How will they be handled – questions for John Henderson
 - Wharram – we are talking about people with significant experience and knowledge – it will not be easy to replace them – I echo the concerns
 - Hugo – the pedagogy behind the D2L classes is another critical area of concern when losing experienced tech support professionals
- i. CAA Minutes from 8/27/2015 – shares humorous anecdote related to course called 'Natural Disasters on Demand'

IV. Presentation to the Senate: John Blitz, President of UPI

(paraphrased)

- Faculty Senate should magnify its role. I support a strong faculty senate. There are only a few topics that probably should not be addressed by Faculty Senate. From perspective of UPI, and in the proper context, Faculty Senate should discuss any issue relevant to EIU faculty. Whose university is this? The administration or the faculty? The EIU faculty is 'the university'. We have much longer tenures at the university than administrators. Shared governance at EIU is broken. Faculty allowed themselves to be marginalized. It needs to be fixed. We need to be partners with the administration in fixing shared governance.
- Oliver – Question to Blitz - what has been learned during the trying summer months?
- Blitz – the ACF situation, new President Glassman is skilled and has 'guts' to make tough but necessary decisions.
- Robertson – adds comments of support to John Blitz and his service with UPI
- Waller – as a faculty member, what would you like to see faculty senate do this year?
- Blitz – not shy away from any issue – you have the right and the ability, UPI does not. Be active and engaged.

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports:

1. Executive = Proposed Faculty Senate Committees – 2015-2016 – handout circulated – no additional questions/comments
2. Nominations = no report
3. Elections = no report – replacement for Minh – James Ochwa-Echel has accepted 1-year term as a replacement
4. Faculty-Student relations = no report
5. Faculty-Staff relations = no report
6. Awards = no report
7. Faculty Forum = Forum last week was well attended
8. Budget transparency = no report
9. Constitution and Bylaws Review = no report
10. Committee on Committees = no report
11. Other Reports:
 - a. Provost's Report – welcome back. It's been an eventful couple of months. Transition to new president – he is facing numerous challenges. Back in January 2015 President Perry provided guidance for the academic division – situation was not revealed to be as bad as it was. Pres. Glassman saw a worsening situation. Reserve funds getting scarce. Targeted cuts assigned to each VP. \$60 million Academic Affairs budget is mostly 'hard-wired' (committed). So budget cut target became very difficult – target could not be reached in one year. Cuts were going to be made, and we rushed to notify 29 ACFs in July that their contract would not be renewed. It caused chaos, shuffling, etc. UPI produced a viable alternative – delay ATB raise in order to retain ACFs for Fall 2015 semester, causing more juggling and shuffling. Employees in academic affairs also affected, as well as civil service employees (30-day notification requirement). Other categories of employees affected. Civil service employees – 30 day notice requirements. "Bumping" chaos occurring right now. Academic Affairs employees at the civil service rank were given their notice – 30 positions. ASPs – 54 positions. I met with 3 A&Ps - notifications required based on Board regulations. In total, we met 2/3 of the President's target for budget reductions. Shares comments from Dean Lanham. Glad students are back on campus. Announces that he will be assuming some of Mary Herrington-Perry's responsibilities. Senator Stowell will serve as liaison for HLC-NCA based on his experience as co-chair of steering committee of accreditation team.
Waller – what further Academic Affairs cuts do you foresee in the near future?
Lord – hard to foresee because of budget situation at the state level. Objective in the current year is to hopefully avoid additional cuts. Next year there will probably be additional cuts – not sure yet without state budget in place.
Stowell – enrollment - admitted students? - this year to last year?
Lord – very close – a little ahead in new freshmen admitted – waiting for the 10th day to officially announce enrollment. Community-college transfer #s are down – similar to most Illinois universities. Grad student enrollment is up. Honors enrollment is up. Pleased with Chris Dearth and admission team's efforts to modernize operations and efforts
Waller – how many depts. met target cuts?
Lord – Pres did not give target cuts – he gave me a dollar \$ - the duty was on me as to where we could make progress. Delegated to Deans and then to Chairs. Did not reach goal so we had to adopt a much more aggressive approach. Ended up cutting ACFs.
Robertson – thanks for comments on moving forward. From conversation this past summer – seeking clarity on 'rescinded' offers this summer.
Lord – not attorney, but we issued new contracts to ACFs before end of May so that health insurance would continue. There is a 'enforcement' clause in the contract depending on 'enrollment and financial means'.
Blitz – the interpretation of contract language would have been disputed without the M.O.A.
Lord – true, that would have undoubtedly been the case
 - b. Other – none

B. Other Old Business:

VI. New Business

A. Future Meetings: President Glassman and John Henderson – September 15th

B. Other New Business – Wharram – should we meet every week? Sterling – CAA meeting often – working on initiatives. Stowell – provides background info on CAA. Lawrence – was on Senate when it met every week. Senate was stronger. Allison – I concur with Lawrence. Business did not lapse. King – every week for two hours or one hour? Allison – if business required, two hours. Robertson – idea has merit. Need a quorum to vote. More discussion on this topic Sept 15th. Be here at 2:00 pm sharp for President Glassman.

VII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.